JUN 26 2008

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Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychlatric Technicians

BEFORE THE BOARD OF VOCATIONAL NURSING AND PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation Against: 10 Case No. VN-2004-237 11 EILEEN LAWRENCE 10988 Rincon Street Loma Linda, CA 92354 12 13 Vocational Nurse License No. VN 171548 Respondent. 14 15

ACCUSATION

Complainant alleges:

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PARTIES

- 1. Teresa Bello-Jones, J.D., M.S.N., R.N. (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in her official capacity as the Executive Officer of the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians, Department of Consumer Affairs (Board).
- 2. On or about April 5, 1995, the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians issued Vocational Nurse License No. VN 171548 to Eileen Lawrence (Respondent). The Vocational Nurse License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on October 31, 2008, unless renewed.

JURISDICTION

3. This Accusation is brought before the Board, under the authority of the following laws. All Section references are to the Business and Professions Code unless otherwise indicated.

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STATUTORY PROVISIONS

- 4. Section 2875 provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may discipline the holder of a vocational nurse license for any reason provided in Article 3 (commencing with section 2875) of the Vocational Nursing Practice Act.
- 5. Section 118, subdivision (b), provides, in pertinent part, that the expiration of a license shall not deprive the Board jurisdiction to proceed with a disciplinary action during the period within which the license may be renewed, restored, reissued or reinstated. Under Section 2892.1, the Board may renew an expired license at any time within four years after the expiration.
- 6. Section 490 provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may suspend or revoke a license when it finds that the licensee has been convicted of a crime substantially related to the qualifications, functions or duties of a licensed vocational nurse.
 - 7. Section 2878 states, in pertinent part:

"The Board may suspend or revoke a license issued under this chapter [the Vocational Nursing Practice Act (Bus. & Prof. Code, 2840, et seq.)] for any of the following:

- "(a) Unprofessional conduct, which includes, but is not limited to, the following:
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- "(d) Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, or assisting in or abetting the violating of, or conspiring to violate any provision or term of this chapter.
- "(f) Conviction of a crime substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of a licensed vocational nurse, in which event the record of the conviction shall be conclusive evidence of the conviction.
 - "(j) The commission of any act involving dishonesty, when that action is related
- to the duties and functions of the licensee. . . ."

profession;

8. Section 2878.5 states, in pertinent part:

In addition to other acts constituting unprofessional conduct within the meaning of this chapter [the Vocational Nursing Practice Act] it is unprofessional conduct for a person licensed under this chapter to do any of the following:

- "(a) Obtain or possess in violation of law, or prescribe, or except as directed by a licensed physician and surgeon, dentist or podiatrist administer to himself or herself or furnish or administer to another, any controlled substance as defined in Division 10 of the Health and Safety Code, or any dangerous drug as defined in Section 4022.
- "(b) Use any controlled substance as defined in Division 10 of the Health and Safety Code, or any dangerous drug as defined in Section 4022, or alcoholic beverages, to an extent or in a manner dangerous or injurious to himself or herself, any other person, or the public, or to the extent that the use impairs his or her ability to conduct with safety to the public the practice authorized by his or her license.
- "(c) Be convicted of a criminal offense involving possession of any narcotic or dangerous drug, or the prescription, consumption, or self-administration of any of the substances described in subdivisions (a) and (b) of this section, in which event the record of the conviction is conclusive evidence thereof.

. . . .

- "(e) Falsify, or make grossly incorrect, grossly inconsistent, or unintelligible entries in any hospital, patient, or other record pertaining to narcotics or dangerous drugs as specified in subdivision (b)."
- 9. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 2518.6 states, in pertinent part:
- "(a) A licensed vocational nurse shall safeguard patients'/clients' health and safety by actions that include but are not limited to the following:

. . . .

"(2) Documenting patient/client care in accordance with standards of the

. . . .

"(b) A licensed vocational nurse shall adhere to standards of the profession and shall incorporate ethical and behavioral standards of professional practice which include but are not limited to the following:

. . . .

"(4) Abstaining from chemical/substance abuse.

"(c) A violation of this section constitutes unprofessional conduct for purposes of initiating disciplinary action."

10. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 2521 states, in pertinent part:

"For the purposes of denial, suspension, or revocation of a license pursuant to Division 1.5 (commencing with Section 475) of the Business and Professions Code, a crime or act shall be considered to be substantially related to the qualifications, functions or duties of a licensed vocational nurse if to a substantial degree it evidences present or potential unfitness of a licensed vocational nurse to perform the functions authorized by his license in a manner consistent with the public health, safety, or welfare. Such crimes or acts shall include but not be limited to those involving the following:

. . . .

"(c) Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, or assisting in or abetting the violation of, or conspiring to violate any provision or term of Chapter 6.5, Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code.

. . . .

"(f) Any crime or act involving the sale, gift, administration, or furnishing of "narcotics or dangerous drugs or dangerous devices" as defined in Section 4022 of the Business and Professions Code."

- 11. Health and Safety Code section 11173 states, in pertinent part:
- "(a) No person shall obtain or attempt to obtain controlled substances, or procure or attempt to procure the administration of or prescription for controlled substances, (1) by fraud,

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deceit, misrepresentation, or subterfuge; or (2) by the concealment of a material fact.

"(b) No person shall make a false statement in any prescription, order, report, or record, required by this division. . . ."

12. Health and Safety Code section 11350, subdivision (a), states as follows:

"Except as otherwise provided in this division [Division 10, commencing with section 11000 of the Health and Safety Code], every person who possesses (1) any controlled substance specified in subdivision (b) or (c), or paragraph (1) of subdivision (f) of Section 11054, specified in paragraph (14), (15), or (20) of subdivision (d) of Section 11054, or specified in subdivision (b) or (c) of Section 11055, or specified in subdivision (h) of Section 11056, or (2) any controlled substance classified in Schedule III, IV, or V which is a narcotic drug, unless upon the written prescription of a physician, dentist, podiatrist, or veterinarian licensed to practice in this state, shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison."

13. Section 125.3 provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may request the administrative law judge to direct a licentiate found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case.

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES / DANGEROUS DRUGS

- 14. Hydrocodone is a Schedule II controlled narcotic substance pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 11055(b)(J) and a dangerous drug pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4022. Preparations containing hydrocodone in combination with other non-narcotic medicinal ingredients are in Schedule III.
- 15. Lorazepam (Alzapam, Ativan, Loraz, Lorazepam Intensol) is an antianxiety agent (benzodiazepines, mild tranquilizer, depressant) used for the relief of anxiety. It is a Schedule IV controlled substance as defined in Health and Safety Code section 11057(d)(16) and a dangerous drug according to Business and Professions Code section 4022.
- 16. Lortab is a Schedule III controlled substance pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 11056(e)(4) and a dangerous drug per Business and Professions code section 4022. Lortab is a trade name for Hydrocodone/APAP, also known as Vicodin.

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SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Conviction of Crime Involving Alcohol)

20. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Section 2878, subdivision (a), on the grounds of unprofessional conduct as defined in Section 2878.5, subdivision (c), in that on or about September 23, 2004, Respondent was convicted of a crime involving the consumption, and self-administration of alcoholic beverages as more fully described above in paragraph 19.

THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Dangerous Use of Alcohol)

21. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Section 2878, subdivision (a), on the grounds of unprofessional conduct as defined in Section 2878.5, subdivision (b), in that on or about April 5, 2004, Respondent used alcoholic beverages to an extent or in a manner dangerous or injurious to herself, any other person, or the public, as more fully described above in paragraph 19.

FOURTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Falsified Hospital Records)

22. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Section 2878, subdivision (a), on the grounds of unprofessional conduct as defined in Section 2878.5, subdivision (e), for violating Health and Safety Code sections 11173, subdivision (b), and 11350, subdivision (a), in that on or about April 6, 2003¹, through on or about April 16, 2003, during a ten day test period, while Respondent was employed as a vocational nurse at Community Hospital of San Bernardino, San Bernardino, California, she made false, grossly incorrect, or grossly inconsistent entries in hospital, patient, or other records pertaining to controlled substances. The controlled substances were withdrawn by Respondent for patients from the

^{1.} Daylight Savings Time begins at 2 a.m. on April 6, 2003; clocks are turned forward one hour.

hospital's medication stores using its Pyxis² system and subject to physician medication orders. 1 as follows: 2 Patient³ A 3 4 **TEMAZEPAM** On April 8, 2003, physician's medication orders for the patient were 5 a. 6 Temazepam (Restoril) 15mg orally every night (bed time) as needed for insomnia, may repeat 7 one time. 8 b. On April 8, 2003, at 20:02, Respondent withdrew 15mg Temezepam, and 9 at 21:00, documented its administration to the patient on the patient's MAR⁴. 10 c. On April 8, 2003, at 21:29, one and one-half hours after a prior 11 withdrawal, and one-half hour after administration of a prior authorized dosage, Respondent 12 withdrew 15mg Temezepam, and failed to document its administration to the patient on the 13 patient's MAR. Temazepan, 15mg, was unaccounted for in any hospital record. 14 LORAZEPAM 15 On April 16, 2003, physician's medication orders for the patient were 16 Lorazepam (Ativan) 1mg three times a day (every eight hours), and 1mg every four hours as 17 needed for anxiety. 18 e. On April 16, 2003, at 17:47, Respondent withdrew 1mg Lorazepam, and at 19 17:00, a time prior to its recorded possession, documented its administration to the patient on the patient's MAR. 20 21 f. On April 16, 2003, at 18:05, less than 30 minutes from the last withdrawal 22 and before four hours as authorized, Respondent withdrew 1mg Lorazepam, and failed to 23 2. Pyxis is a trade name for the automated single-unit dose medication dispensing system 24 that records information such as patient name, physician orders, date and time medication was withdrawn, and the name of the licensed individual who withdrew and administered the 25 medication. 26 3. Patient names are withheld for consumer privacy protection, and upon the court's 27 request will be provided.

4. MAR. Medication Administration Record.

medication orders for the patient were Vicodin (Lortab), 5/500mg one tablet orally three times a

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On April 8, 2003, April 9, 2003, and April 12, 2003, physician's

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day (every eight hours) as needed.

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- o. On April 8, 2003, at 17:02, Respondent withdrew 5/500mg Lortab, and at 17:00, documented its administration to the patient on the patient's MAR.
- p. On April 8, 2003, at 19:42, two hours and 40 minutes after her previous withdrawal and before eight hours as authorized, Respondent withdrew 5/500mg Lortab, and at 21:00, almost one and one-half hours after withdrawal, documented its administration to the patient on the patient's MAR.
- q. On April 8, 2003, at 23:14, about three and three-quarter hours after her previous withdrawal and before eight hours as authorized, Respondent withdrew 5/500mg Lortab, and failed to document its administration to the patient on the patient's MAR. Lortab, 5/500mg, was unaccounted for in any hospital record.
- r. On April 9, 2008, at 15:47, Respondent withdrew 5/500mg Lortab, and at 16:00, documented its administration to the patient on the patient's MAR.
- s. On April 9, 2003, at 18:33, about two and three-quarter hours after her previous withdrawal and before eight hours as authorized, Respondent withdrew 5/500mg Lortab, and at 18:30, documented its administration to the patient on the patient's MAR.
- t. On April 9, 2003, at 21:37, three hours and five minutes after her previous withdrawal and before eight hours as authorized, Respondent withdrew 5/500mg Lortab, and failed to document its administration to the patient on the patient's MAR. Lortab, 5/500mg, was unaccounted for in any hospital record.
- u. On April 12, 2003, at 18:15, Respondent withdrew 5/500mg Lortab, and at 17:00, a time prior to its recorded possession, documented its administration to the patient on the patient's MAR.
- v. On April 12, 2003, at 22:12, almost four hours after her previous withdrawal and before eight hours as authorized, Respondent withdrew 5/500mg Lortab, and at 21:30, a time prior to its recorded possession, documented its administration to the patient on the patient's MAR.

LORAZEPAM

Patient C

- w. On April 9, 2003, physician's medication orders for the patient were
 Lorazepam (Ativan) 1mg orally every four hours for anxiety.
- x. On April 9, 2003, at 15:49, Respondent withdrew 1mg Lorazepam, and at 17:00, over one hour and 20 minutes from its time of withdrawal, documented its administration to the patient on the patient's MAR.
- y. On April 9, 2003, at 17:50, about two hours after her previous withdrawal and before four hours as authorized, Respondent withdrew 1mg Lorazepam, and at 21:00, over two hours and 10 minutes from its time of withdrawal, documented its administration to the patient on the patient's MAR.

TEMAZEPAM

- z. On April 7, 2003, and April 8, 2003, physician's medication orders for the patient were Temazepam 15mg for insomnia, may repeat one dose.
- aa. On April 7, 2003, at 20:12, Respondent withdrew 15mg Temezapam, and at 21:00, almost an hour later, documented its administration to the patient on the patient's MAR.
- bb. On April 7, 2003, at 21:38, Respondent withdrew 15mg Temezapam, and failed to document its administration to the patient on the patient's MAR. Temezapam, 15mg, was unaccounted for in any hospital record.
- cc. On April 8, 2003, at 20:02, Respondent withdrew 15mg Temezapam, and at 21:00, almost an hour later, documented its administration to the patient on the patient's MAR.
- dd. On April 8, 2003, at 20:11, Respondent withdrew 15mg Temezapam, and failed to document its administration to the patient on the patient's MAR. Temezapam, 15mg, was unaccounted for in any hospital record.

Patient D

TEMAZEPAM

ee. On April 7, 2003, physician's medication orders for the patient were

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Temazepam 15mg for insomnia, may repeat one dose.

ff. On April 7, 2003, at 22:01, Respondent withdrew 15mg Temazepam, and failed to document its administration to the patient on the patient's MAR. Temezapam, 15mg, was unaccounted for in any hospital record.

LORTAB (Vicodin)

- gg. On April 7, 2003, physician's medication orders for the patient were Vicodin (Lortab), 5/500mg one tablet orally four times in one day (every six hours) as needed.
- hh. On April 7, 2008, at 18:48, Respondent withdrew 5/500mg Lortab, and at 18:00, a time prior to its recorded possession, documented its administration to the patient on the patient's MAR..
- ii. On April 7, 2003, at 20:23, less than two hours from her previous withdrawal and before six hours as authorized, Respondent withdrew 5/500mg Lortab, and at 22:00, almost one and three-quarters hours after withdrawal, documented its administration to the patient on the patient's MAR.
- jj. On April 7, 2003, at 23:00, less than three hours from her previous withdrawal and before six hours as authorized, Respondent withdrew 5/500mg Lortab, and at 23:00, one hour from her last administration of Lortab to the patient, documented its administration to the patient on the patient's MAR.

Patient E

TEMAZEPAM

- kk. On April 9, 2003, April 11, 2003, and April 12, 2003, physician's medication orders for the patient were Temazepam 15mg capsule for insomnia, may repeat one dose.
- II. On April 9, 2003, at 20:55, Respondent withdrew two doses of 15mg Temazepam (30mg), and at 21:00, documented one dose of 15mg Temazepam administration to the patient on the patient's MAR, failing to document the second dose of 15mg Temazepam administration to the patient on the patient's MAR. Temezapam, 15mg, was unaccounted for in any hospital record.

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uu. On April 12, 2003, at 21:09, Respondent withdrew 15mg Temazepam, and failed to document its administration to the patient on the patient's MAR. Temezapam, 15mg, was unaccounted for in any hospital record.

LORAZEPAM

vv. On April 12, 2003, physician's medication orders for the patient were

Lorazepam (Ativan) 1mg tablet for anxiety, not to exceed four doses in 24 hours (every 6 hours).

ww. On April 12, 2003, at 17:50, Respondent withdrew 1mg Lorazepam, and failed to document its administration to the patient on the patient's MAR. Lorazepam, 1mg, was unaccounted for in any hospital record.

FIFTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Standards of Profession)

23. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Section 2878, subdivisions (a) and (d), for engaging in unprofessional conduct as defined in California Code of Regulations, title 16, sections 2521, subdivisions (c) and (f), and 2518.6, subdivisions (a)(2), (b)(4), and (c), in that on or about or about April 6, 2003, through on or about April 16, 2003, while employed as a licensed vocational nurse, Respondent failed to adhere to standards of the profession and ethical and behavioral standards of professional practice, as more fully described above in paragraphs 22(a) - (ww).

SIXTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Unlawful Possession / Use of Controlled Substances)

24. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Section 2878, subdivisions (a) and (d), for engaging in unprofessional conduct as defined in Section 2878.5, subdivisions (a) and (b), and violating Health and Safety Code sections 11173, subdivisions (a) and (b), and 11350, subdivision (a), in that on or about April 6, 2003, through on or about April 16, 2003, Respondent was in possession of and used controlled substances and dangerous drugs, without valid prescriptions, to an extent or in a manner dangerous or injurious to herself, any other person, or the public, as more fully described above in paragraphs 22(a) - (ww), and 23.

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2	3.	Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.
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4	DATED: June 2	26, 2008.
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6		TERESA BELLO-JONES, J.D., M.S.N., R.N.
7 8		Evenutive Officer
9		Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians Department of Consumer Affairs State of California
10		Complainant
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